

# JAPS ABANDON TWO 'RAT TRAP' ISLANDS IN WESTERN ALEUTIANS

Get Out of Attu and Agattu So U. S. Bombers Concentrate on Kiska; Navy Thinks Bases Were Too Hot or Too Cold.

Washington, Oct. 8.—(A. P.)—Blasted by American sea and air power, the Japanese appeared Thursday to have fled from two of the three western Aleutian islands they occupied four months ago and were undergoing heavy bombardment on their remaining foothold. Probably realizing they had blundered into what a naval spokesman termed a "rat trap," enemy forces have disappeared from the westernmost island of Attu and nearby Agattu with losses thus far totaling thirty-eight ships sunk or damaged and forty planes destroyed.

The navy reported Wednesday that no signs of Japanese activity on either island had been detected for several weeks. The enemy's lone remaining base, the island of Kiska, thus drew the concentrated fire of United States bombing planes.

Presumably operating from their new Andreanof islands base, army Liberator bombers with fighter escorts dumped explosives and incendiaries on the Japanese Kiska encampment Monday, scoring hits on seaplane hangars.

## SIX NIP SEAPLANE FIGHTERS SHOT DOWN.

Six enemy seaplane fighters which counter-attacked were shot down, and all the American aircraft, escaping what the navy termed "only light anti-aircraft opposition," returned to their base.

The enemy's occupation of Kiska was regarded in naval circles as increasingly jeopardized, not only because the new American base is but 125 nautical miles distant but be-

cause of the approach of bitter winter weather. Less than ten days ago, the Japanese radio reported that snow and biting winds were causing hardship to their unsheltered forces in the islands.

Nipponese invasion of the islands, recently described as a Japanese "rat trap" (Turn to Page 18—Col. 3.)

## MANITOU SPRINGS RETURNS TO 1880 HAND FIRE-CART

Manitou Springs, Colo., Oct. 8.—(I. N. S.)—The fellow who said war was setting America back fifty years should see what's happening in Manitou Springs. An old hand-drawn hose reel, presented to the volunteer fire department in 1880, is being restored to usable condition by order of the city council. It will be kept on hand as standard equipment.

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# JAPS ABANDON TWO OF BASES IN ALEUTIAN CHAIN

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trap" by Capt. Leland P. Lovette of the navy's bureau of public relations, opened with the bombing of Dutch Harbor, on June 3, a day before the battle of Midway.

Kiska has offered a comparatively adequate harbor for Japanese submarines and possibly might have been desired, naval officials said, as a vantage point from which to intercept American supplies moving to Russia in case of a Japanese attack on the Soviet. Less than 600 nautical miles west of Dutch Harbor, Kiska likewise offers facilities for operation of Japanese planes.

Occupation of the Aleutians also gave the Japanese an opportunity to forecast weather conditions in the eastern islands and on the American continent.

## ADVANTAGES OFFSET BY CASUALTIES.

Whatever advantage was gained by the invasion was more than offset, naval circles believed, by the enemy casualties in ships and planes.

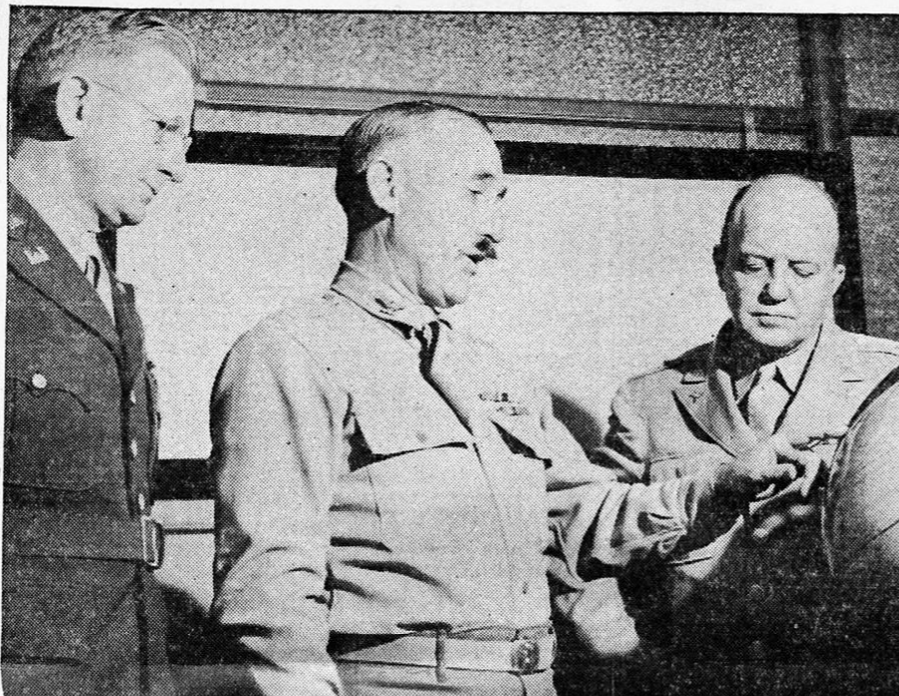
American submarines and planes sank thirteen vessels including a cruiser, six destroyers, a warship identified as either a cruiser or destroyer, two mine sweepers, a troop transport and two cargo ships. A destroyer, a submarine and a transport were listed as probably sunk.

Among twenty-two vessels reported damaged were four cruisers, three destroyers, a carrier, three submarines, six transports, a gunboat and four large cargo ships.

THE DENVER POST—FIRST IN EVERYTHING

## Successes in the Aleutians

are significant, it was pointed out in Denver Thursday by Col. H. W. Shelmire of the army air forces' headquarters staff in Washington, who visited Lowry field after a tour of inspection of American bases and operations in the Aleutian islands, where the Japs have abandoned two islands they occupied. He is shown here pointing out a tactical point to Col. G. F. Lewis, chief of repairs and utilities in the office of the chief of engineers, and Brig. Gen. Harvey S. Burwell, commanding officer of Lowry field, an old friend.—Official Lowry field photo.



COLONEL LEWIS.

COLONEL SHELMIRE.

BRIG. GEN. BURWELL.